Virginia Tobacco Growers Will Meet March 3

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp. the grower organization which administers the price support program for flue-cured tobacco, will hold its 19th annual district meeting for Virginia growers in South Hill, Virginia. Roy B. Davis,Jr. of South Boston, Vice President and Director from Virginia, and Fred G. Bond, General Manager, jointly announced that the meeting will be held in the American Legion Building, South Hill, Virginia, on March 3, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

The CO-OP's operational report for the calendar year will be given. Also, of vital concern to every flue-cured grower will be discussion on the large inventory build up of down-stalk grades of tobacco in Stabilization's inventory. Stabilization's stocks totaled 608 million pounds as of January 1, 1977, a large percentage of which consisted of down-stalk tobacco. Davis noted that on January 1, 1975, Stabilization held just under 100 million pounds of tobacco in inventory. Over 535 million pounds of tobacco moved into Stabilization's inventory from the 1975 and 1976 crops. He further added that Stabilization's sales for the past two calendar years have totaled less than 28 million pounds which has caused further concern, as normal sales activity over a two-year period amounts to more than 250 million pounds.

In addition, reports will be given by representatives of Tobacco Associates, Inc.; Tobacco Growers' Information Committee; USDA-AMS Inspection (Grading) Service; and other allied organizations and agencies. Ample time will be provided for discussion.

A brief business session will be held for the election of Stabilization's Advisory Committee members for the coming year.

Davis added, 'Flue-Cured Growers are urged to make every effort to attend the South Hill meeting in order to get a better understanding of the problems confronting all segments of the tobacco industry.'

LUCKY CLOVER 4-H CLUB

Pamplin Elementary School was the setting for the Lucky Clover 4-H club which met Monday night, February 14. President, Lisa Dickerson called the meeting to order. After the pledge of allegiance, Secretary Cynthia Hix read the minutes of the last meeting. Steve Cobb gave the Treasurer's report.

Everone was reminded of the public speaking dates - February 23 for junior members.

We elected two committee members to help with the March of Dimes walkathon in May. They are Janice Richardson and Vickie Glover.

State 4-H Congress will be held June 20 - 24. All band members can apply to be in the state 4-H band.

We selected a community project committee to be involved in spring activities. The people on the committee are Steve Cobb, Angie Murray, and Lisa Dickerson.

Near the end of the meeting Mr. Sweet showed slides on the 4-H program. It was very interesting. Refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned.

Jane Covington
Reporter

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A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 86 - NUMBER 9 APPOMATTOX (VA.) - TIMES-VIRGINIAN - MARCH 3, 1977 SINGLE COPY PRICE 15c

Father Darkleaf

BY CALVIN ROBINSON

Welcome to March. Have you noticed that daylight hours are longer and by St. Partick's Day will be approximately even and keep getting longer until late June. My calendar shows no official holidays in March, but the Irish will remember St. Partick on the 17th. Official holidays are scare until Memorial Day. March winds will get gardens dry enough for planting. I have seen buds on some of my trees and shrubs and those with fruit trees are hoping that there will be no more frost. We had a light thunder storm Feb. 24, but it phased out in thirty-one minutes by my timing, 5:05 to 5:36. And according to my calendar, Appomattox's big date in history, April 9, comes on a Saturday this year.

* * *

With only two months of 1977 behind us, Virginia highway deaths have already passed the one hundred mark. Not as high as some years, but too many.

* * *

March is traditionally a time for Spring Cleaning. Let us get at it, but it is more easily done outdoors than in closets, basements, and pantries. I am a failure as a Spring Cleaner and end up merely re-arranging.

* * *

Baseball, track, softball, tennis and golf will command sports attention as basketball relinquishes the headlines. In baseball the big league teams make so many trades and bring in new player that it takes a month or more to get acquainted with who's who on your favorite team. Many fans would like to see big league ball back in Washington, so local folks could see a few games. Just read...the hard part about being a winner is that you are expected to do it all over again next time.

* * *

And there was the fellow who thought that TV Guide was a list of what is in the Times-Virginian.

* * *

Just saw a list of the newspapers and magazine reaching the White House. Thirty-three newspapers and thirty-seven magazines. Think they should subscribe to a number of weekly newspapers.

* * *

Good reading material is essential and for a week I have been browsing among over a hundred back issues of National Geographic magazine.One of the best...the Geographic issue of April, 9, 1965, devoted to Appomattox and "How To End a war: Lee and Grant at Appomattox."

* * *

Must be lots of colds and seasonal illness going around, for I see lots of folks going and coming from local doctor's offices. We are so fortunate in having excellent physicians and staffs.

* * *

One of my seed catalogs lists a special climbing tomato variety, saying that, from seed, the plants may grow up to fifteen feet tall. Maybe some baseketball players could harvest the yield, but not Darkleaf.

* * *

I understand that a "dud" is an explosive that did not go off. recently a Virginia lad was killed when a "dud" he had brought to his class, exploded. Years ago I covered the Appomattox battlefield with a metal detector, when same was permissable (which it is not now) and found lots of relics, none of the live variety. It pays to be suspicious of all guns and ammunition and know what you are doing, using every precaution.

* * *

Let up prepare and be ready for a fine tourist season in Appomattox There will be a lot of people on the highways. Where will you be going on your vacation? Thanks for reading and seeya next week.

Session Held For Teacher Aides

An inservice session was held on Wednesdaytor teacher aides in the Appomattox County Public Schools. This is the second meeting in a series of three planned for the 1976-77 session. Personnel from the Division of Elementary Education, State Department of Education, conducted the workshop sessions.

Mrs. Margaret Moss, pictured on the left, discussed Teaching the Disadvantaged. Mrs. Nancy Vance, pictured on the right, is shown discussing Classroom Management with a group of the teacher aides.

The meeting was attended by teacher aides from Appomattox Primary School, Appomattox Elementary School, Pamplin Elementary School, and Appomattox County High School.

Officers - Directors Elected By Farmers National Bank Last Week

Officers and Directors of the Farmers National Bank were elected at the annual meeting of shareholders held on Tuesday, February 22, 1977 at the Triangel Plaza Branch Bank.

Elected to serve until the annual shareholders meeting in 1978 were Alfred R. Harwood, Jr., Chairman of the Board; J. E. Jamerson, Vice Chairman of the Board; T. DeWitt Evans, President; William A. Hunter, Vice President and Cashier; James J. Pugh, Jr., Vice President and Branch Manager Eleanor C. Conner, Assistant Cashier; Patsy S. Harvey, Assistant Cashier; Loretta D. Layne, Assistant Cashier; and Ellen R. Martin, Assistant cashier.

Directors elected to serve until the annual shareholders meeting in 1978 were W. M. Abbitt, E. W. Carson, John C. Cole, J. B. Drinkard, Jr., T. DeWitt Evans, John S. Grinels, Alfred R. Harwood, Jr., William A. Hunter, J. E. Jamerson, W. E. Jamerson, J. A. Mathews, C. T. Moses, Jr., James J. Pugh, Jr., Roger S. Redman, and James A. Smith.

The past year showed a marked improvement at the Farmers National Bank over the depressed economy of 1975. Total assets at the close of 1976 amounted to $20,231,000; a growth of 13% in the past year.

Net profits retained for 1976 were $104,000, or 2.07 per share compared to $46,000, or $.92 per share for 1975, an increase of 125%.

The book value of a share of stock on December 31, 1976 amounted to $34.14.

Officers and directors at the Farmers National Bank are grateful for their growth in 1976 which they attribute to the loyal support of customers, stockholders, directors, officers

Crumbs For Thought

BY:ZEKE

We are often too quick to sit in judgement of our fellowman. Sometimes we are not quick enough! Wrong is wrong whether it be in a friend or an enemy. And we cannot overlook wrong. The upright judge condemns the wrong but does not hate the wrongdoer. God loves the sinners - but not their sins. We judge in love to lead them to belief.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Outdoor Burning Law In Effect

The Outdoor Burning Law, the law requiring safety in burning brush, trash, and other debris, became effective March 1, 1977.

David M. Smith, Chief Forest Warden, for the Virginia Division of Forestry, said the law, known sometimes as the 4 p.m. Law and the brush burning law, actually applies to the burning of any materials in the outdoors.

The regulation, designed to reduce the number of escaped grass and forest fires, requires that burning of any materials or debris, can be done only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 12 midnight if the fire is in or within 300 feet of forestland, brushland, or other inflammable material. The law is in effect from March 1 through May 15 of each year. Smith also pointed out that this regulation is in addition to any air pollution control laws that exist and that are enforced by the Air Pollution Control Board.

Foresters urge that any burning be done after 4 p.m. and that the fire be checked the next day to be sure all sparks are cold. Fires should not be left untended and every effort should be made to make all open fires safe.

C of C Opposes Federal Regulation That Would Break Up American Oil Companies

The Virginia State Chamber of Commerce has asked the State Congressional delegation to oppose federal regulation which would break up American oil companies.

In a letter to Virginia's ten Congressmen and two Senators State Chamber Executive Vice President Richard S. Gillis, Jr., called atcention to recent shortages of natural gas and other fuels which adversely affected homes and industries in Virginia and other states. Gillis's letter urged the Virginia delegation to oppose House Resolution 683, which would bring about divestiture of U. S. oil companies.

The basis for the Chamber's opposition to divestiture legislation is a resolution adopted by the organization's Board of Directors in May last year. That document contends that breaking up the present energy distribution mechanism in this country would most likely decrease its efficiency, and lead to higher fuel prices. The Chamber resolution noted also that forcing divestiture on the petroleum industry could set a precedent which could be applied to other types of American industries.

The Virginia State Chamber of Commerce is Virginia's leading general business organization, representing some 8,000 business people in the State. A private, non-profit membership association, the Chamber represents the viewpoint of its business members to State and national bodies.

Oratorical Contest Set For Today American Legion High School

The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest will be held today, Thursday, at 1 p.m. at the Colonial Heights High School Auditorium to determine the Department of Virginia (State) Oratorical Champion from a field of three competitors representing Western, Eastern and Northern Virginia. The public is invited to attend.

As a matter of local interest, The Western Zone American Legion Oratorical Champion is Teresa Cyrus, a senior at Appomattox County High School. She is sponsored by American Legion Post 104 and the American Legion 10th District under the auspices of Oratorical Chairman Ivey Holland.

The champion orator will represent Virginia at the Regional Contest to be held at George Mason University on April 18 in Fairfax. In addition to a $300 scholarship as State Champion, the contestant selected will receive a $500 scholarship award for participation at the Regional Level. The winner of that meet proceeds to compete for an additional $8,000 award. Contestants present a prepared oration of eight to ten minutes duration on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States giving emphasis to duties and obligations of citizens to the Government. Also presented is a three to five minute unprepared talk on an Article of the Constitution selected at random at the time of the contest.

SCHOOL BOARD TO MEET MARCH 9

The Appomattox County School Board will meet in regular session in the Board Room in Appomattox on Wednesday, March 9, at 7 p.m.

Items on the agenda include report from Pamplin Elementary School regarding self-study; discussion regarding the 1977-78 budget; review of student test scores; review of plans for Triennial School Census; superintendent's report; and report from a school principal.

County Decals Now On Sale

Appomattox County automobile and motorcycle decals went on sale March 1st and must be purchased not later than March 31st, according to an announcement from Mrs. Ida H. Campbell, Treasurer of Appomattox County.

You must bring valid registration card with you to the Treasurer's Office in order to purchase your decal.

All motor vehicles and motorcycles must have a county decal. The deadline for purchasing the decals is March 31st.

$50,000 Cost Per Prisoner

$7 Million Correctional Center Opened March 2

(Editor's Note - Look at your pay check! Do you care where your tax dollars are going? Are you aware that the average family in Appomattox County lives in a house that cost approximately $30,000 while prisoners are housed in a new correctional center opened March 2, 1977 in Mecklenburg County that cost $7 million with a capacity of 144 inmates - or approximately $50,000 per prisoner?

While we believe that maximum security and adequate housing is a necessity for prisoners, we are also aware that many prisoners respond to rehabilation and should be given the chance, but the Mecklenburg Correctional Center was designed to meet the needs of inmates who require maximum security and who have not responded to treatment programs in other institutions.

We feel that our Federal and State politicians and lawmakers could spend our tax dollars to a better advantage.

We could, in fact, be encouraging crime in the United States when a prisoner is given more advantages after committing a crime than he had living at home. What has happened to the days when a criminal had to pay for a crime against society?

We invite your comments regarding the following news release and urge that you write your Congressman and Senators if you share our concern.)

The first inmates will arive March 2 at Mecklenburg Correctional Center, marking the opening of the $7 million first phase of the major maximum security Virginia prison.

The first 24 inmates will be long-term felons who have been held in local jails for lack of space in the state correctional system. they will complete the reception-classification process, which they have begun at the State Penitentiary, and will engage in service activities at Mecklenburg during the "Shakedown" phase of putting the new institution into operation.

The first phase, consisting of two housing units with a capacity of 144, has been under construction since the fall of 1974. The second phase currently is under construction. When all three phases -including five housing units- are complete, the institution will have a capacity of 360.

The site is off U. S. 58 approximately four miles east of Boydton in Mecklenburg County. An "open house" for interested citizens was held February 27 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The institution was designed by Ben R. Johns, Jr., AIA, of Richmond; the first phase contractor was Romeo Guest Associates, Incorporated, of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mecklenburg was planned to meet the needs of inmates who require maximum security and who have not responded to treatment programs in other institutions.

Each building has a central control station permitting ingress and egress to each structure. Each pod has a central control point that provides a view of each cell, and from which all doors in each pod are operated. All housing is individual-cell design.

Construction of the facility is a reinforced concrete structural system covered with a four-inch brick skin. Wall construction of the cell area is eight-inch reinforced concrete with a two-inch cavity air space and a four-inch thickness of face brick on the exposed exterior. Interior walls are of painted masonry block. All exterior windows are maximum security detention type with a maximum ventilation opening of six inches. A double security fence with three guard towers will surround the institution.

The original target date for occupancy was January, 1977, but delays resulted from problems in obtaining utility service at the site.

In a related matter, construction has been completed on a 240-seat dining hall at Powhatan Correctional Annex #1, a new facility built around converted mobile homes. The first meal was served February 28.

Completion of the dining hall will permit a stepped-up occupancy schedule for the Annex, the capacity of which will be 432. The present population is 78. The Annex will serve temporarily as a reception-classification center for new inmates.

Banquet March 17 To Honor Dark Fired Tobacco Producers

The third annual Dark Fire Cured Recognition Banquet will be held Thursday, March 17 at 7 P.M. at the Appomattox County High School to honor outstanding producers of dark-fired tobacco.

Master of ceremonies for the event will be Joe Hazelgrove, chairman of the Dark-Fired Tobacco Commission. Speaker will be Roy Davis, assistant director Division of Markets, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

The program is sponsored by Virginia Tech's Extension Division in cooperation with the Dark-Fired Tobacco Commission and the Virginia Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers' Marketing Association, said A. D. Poole, Jr., agricultural program leader for Virginia Tech.

Object of the contest, said Poole, is to create additinal interest among producers in dark-fired tobacco areas. It is hoped that production will be stimulated and that more acres will be grown as a result of the program. Improved production practices as recommended by Extension help in reaching higher production goals, Poole said.

Growers signed up for the contest last June. As soon as they sell their tobacco they take their warehouse receipts to the Extension office, along with a record of acreage grown. Pounds per acre produced for the year are figured from these records.

There are two categories in the contest; 2,000 pounds per acre and 2,500 pounds per acre. Green framed certificates are presented to those producing between 2,000 pounds and 2,500 pounds per acre, and gold framed certificates are presented those making above 2,500 pounds per acre.

cont'd on page 5

BOOSTER CLUB MEETS TONIGHT

The A.C.H.S. Athletic Booster Club will hold its regular membership meeting tonight, Thursday, in the school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m.

New Pastor At Rocks Church

Rev. and Mrs. A. M. Taylor

The Rev. A. M. Taylor, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Ellis Grove, Illinois, assumed the duties of pastor at Rocks Baptist Church in Pamplin in the Appomattox Association effective the first of March.

Rev. Taylor has been in the ministry for seventeen years and has pastored three churches. He attended the University of Maryland with additional undergraduate work at the Okidal in Charleston; the Washington University in St. Louis, as well as the University in Montgomery, Alabama. He has studied privately for two years under Dr. Chester Russell of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tennessee. In addition, he has done some work in Seminary Extension from Southwestern Seminary.

Rev. Taylor has served as Vice-Moderator of Nine Mile Association in Southern Illinois. He is an approved Sunday School Consultant with the Illinois Baptist State Association and has conducted a number of Action Campaigns in the state.

We extend a very warm welcome to Rev. A. M. (Dick) Taylor and his wife, Minnie, to the state of Virginia and to Rocks Baptist Church.

The Taylors have two sons. One is in college in Illinois and the other resides in Lynchburg, Virginia.